

Modernizing Fertilizer Recommendations: The Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool (FRST)

ALTA Winter Meeting – March 1, 2023

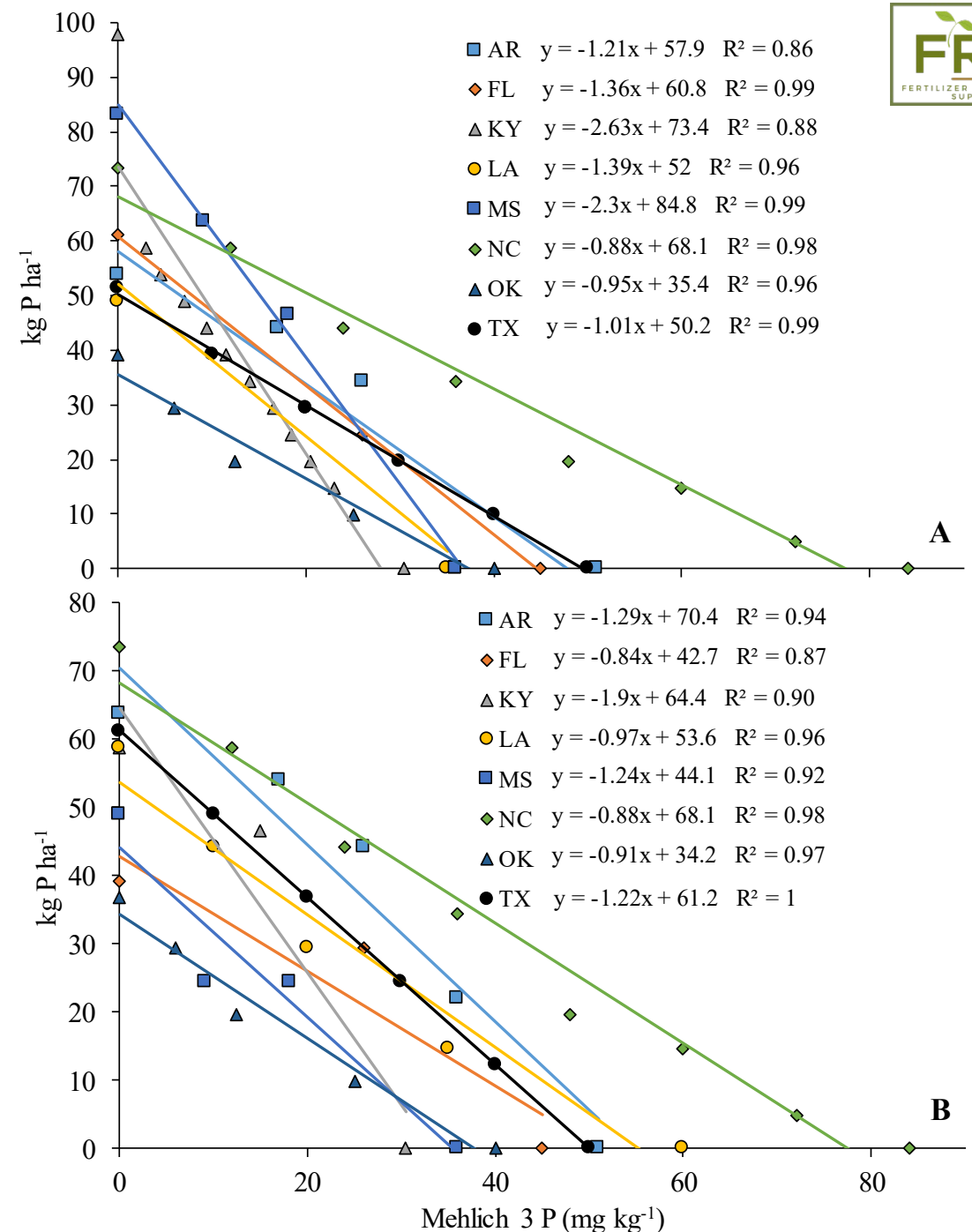
Dr. Sarah E. Lyons

Deanna Osmond, Nathan Slaton, John Spargo, Pete Kleinman,
Daniel Kaiser, Matt Yost, & Greg Buol

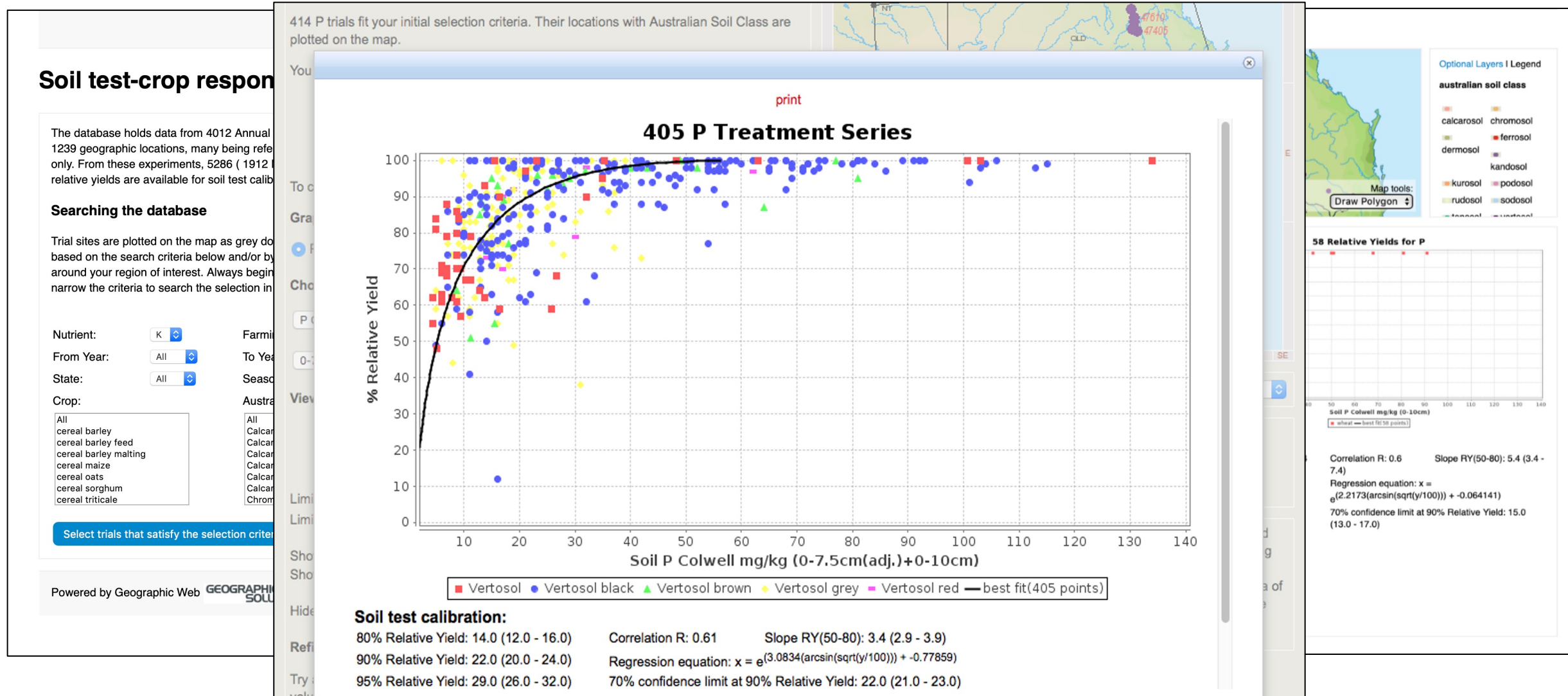


The Need for FRST

- FRST Began with Southern Soil Fertility Working Group (June 2018)
- Realized large differences in P recommendations across states
- Zhang, H., J. Antonangelo, J.H. Grove, D.L. Osmond, S. Alford, R.J. Florence, G. Huluka, D.H. Hardy, J.T. Lessl, R.O. Maguire, R.S. Mylavarapu, L. Oldham, E.M. Pena-Yewtukhiw, T.L. Provin, N.A. Slaton, L.S. Sonon, D. Sotomayor, and J.J. Wang. 2020. Soil Test Based P and K Rate Recommendations across the Southeast: Similarities and Differences; Opportunities and Challenges. Soil Sci. Soc. Am. J. DOI: 10.1002/saj2.20280



Working together on a larger scale: Big Data



Fertilizer Recommendations Support Tool (FRST)

A Foundation for Modernizing Fertilizer Recommendations

Goal of FRST

To advance the accuracy of soil-test-based fertilizer recommendations by developing a database and decision tool from which recommendations can be scientifically developed and defended as best management practices.

Objectives of FRST

1. Develop a community of practice to galvanize interest and participation around soil fertility.
2. Develop a searchable tool that provides soil test correlation and calibration graphs with statistical confidence intervals for the area of interest (general users)
3. Provide data for nutrient management scientists and modelers to for in-depth analysis of soil test calibration and correlation data (researchers)

FRST Team + Collaborators



Nutifafa Adotey	University of Tennessee	John Jones	University of Wisconsin	Mark Reiter	Virginia Tech University
Shannon Alford	Clemson University	Daniel Kaiser	University of Minnesota	Edwin Ritchey	University of Kentucky
Brian Arnall	Oklahoma State University	Gurpreet Kaur	University of Missouri	Matthew Ruark	University of Wisconsin
Dana Ashford	USDA-NRCS	Quirine Ketterings	Cornell University	Dorivar Ruiz Diaz	Kansas State University
Doug Beegle*	Penn State	Gene Kim	USDA-NRCS	Amir Sadeghpour	Southern Illinois University
Carl Bolster	USDA-ARS	Pete Kleinman	USDA-ARS	Hubert Savoy*	University of Tennessee
Sylvie Brouder	Purdue University	Greg LaBarge	Ohio State University	Charles Shapiro*	University of Nebraska
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Miguel Cabrera	University of Georgia	Sarah Lyons	North Carolina State Univ.	Amy Shober	University of Delaware
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Jason Clark	South Dakota State Univ.	Antonio Mallarino	Iowa State University	Gurbir Singh	University of Missouri
Adrian Correndo	Kansas State University	Andrew Margenot	University of Illinois	Jasdeep Singgh	University of Missouri
Steve Culman	Washington State Univ.	Emma Matcham	University of Florida	Sintem	University of Georgia
Leo Deiss	Ohio State University	Marshall McDaniel	Iowa State University	Nathan Slaton	University of Arkansas
Jagman Dhillon	Mississippi State Univ.	Fernando Miguez	Iowa State University	Jared Spackman	University of Idaho
Gerson Drescher	University of Arkansas	Robert Miller	Formerly Colorado State	Carissa Spencer	USDA-FSA
Bhupinder Farmaha	Clemson University	Amber Moore	Oregon State University	David Sotomayor	University of Puerto Rico
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Bronc Finch	University of Arkansas	Jake Mowrer	Texas A&M University	Kurt Steinke	Michigan State University
Robert Florence	University of Tennessee	Stephanie Murphy	Rutgers University	Haiying Tao	University of Connecticut
Robert Flynn	New Mexico State Univ.	Rao Mylavarapu	University of Florida	David Tarkalson	USDA-ARS
Luke Gatiboni	North Carolina State Univ.	Kelly Nelson	University of Missouri	Gurpal Toor	University of Maryland
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John Grove	University of Kentucky	Leanna Nigon	The Fertilizer Institute	Pete Vadas	USDA-ARS
David Hardy	NCDA&CS	Deanna Osmond	North Carolina State Univ.	Jeff Volenec	Purdue University
Daren Harmel	USDA-ARS	Rasel Parvej	Louisiana State University	Jordon Wade	University of Missouri
Joseph Heckman	Rutgers University	Austin Pearce	North Carolina State Univ.	Forbes Walker	University of Tennessee
John Hoban	East Carolina University	Eugenia		Jim Wang	Louisiana State University
Bryan Hopkins	Brigham Young University	Pena-Yewtukhiw	Univ. of West Virginia	Charles White	Penn State
Gobena Huluka	Auburn University	Tim Pilkowski	USDA-NRCS	Stephen Wood	The Nature Conservancy
Javed Iqbal	University of Nebraska	Rishi Prasad	Auburn University	Matt Yost	Utah State University
Jim Ippolito	Colorado State University	Tony Provin	Texas A&M University	Frank Yin	University of Tennessee
Sindhu Jagadamma	University of Tennessee	Vaughn Reed	Mississippi State Univ.	Hailin Zhang	Oklahoma State University

*Retired

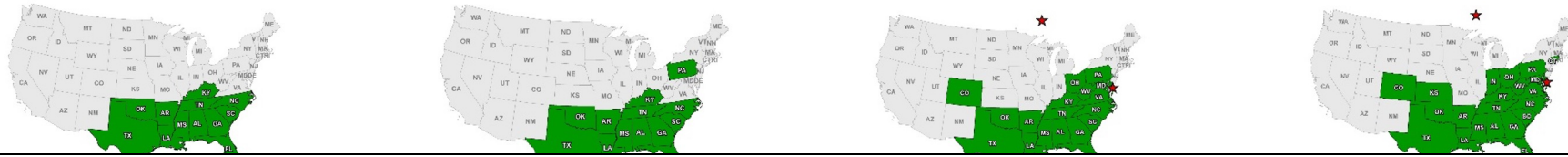


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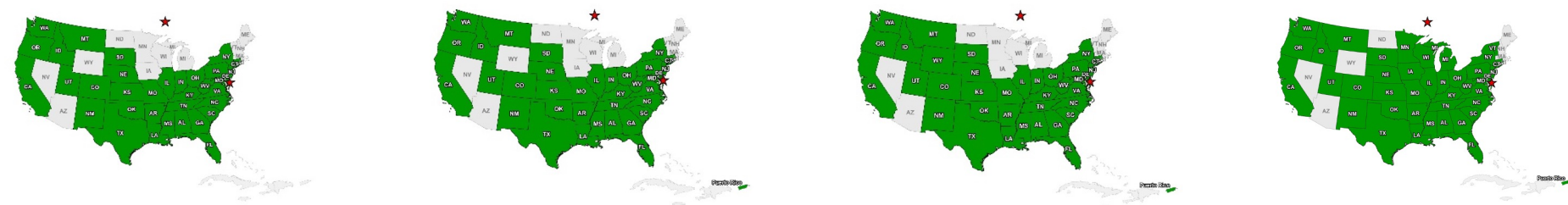
Visit soiltestfrst.org

FRST Project Collaboration: 2018-2022



Buy-in from the community

- In-person meetings 2019, 2020
- Monthly conference calls
- Volunteers for specific activities



FRST Project: Step-wise activities



1. Survey of land grant faculty on current soil test practices and recommendations (Spargo)
2. Define a minimum dataset for soil test correlation and calibration trials (Slaton)
3. Collect legacy soil test correlation and calibration data and develop an accompanying relational database (Lyons and Buol)
4. Determine the most appropriate relative yield definition for FRST (Pearce, Lyons and Slaton)
5. Collaborator soil test fertility trials (Osmond and Lyons)
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10. FRST-associated project: lime equations (Miller)

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National Land Grant University Soil Fertility Survey

- Goals are to gain a better understanding of the current status of soil testing across the U.S. to direct collaborative efforts among states and regions, and to identify where opportunities exist to harmonize recommendation guidelines.
- Collected Information About:
 - Analytical methods
 - Fertilizer recommendations and philosophy used
 - Status of correlation/calibration data
 - Correlation: Relationship between crop yield and a soil test nutrient
 - Calibration: Crop response to fertilization at specific nutrient concentrations

National Land Grant University Soil Fertility Survey

- 48 states and Puerto Rico
- 100 questions in 9 different categories, including laboratory and research funding, soil test recommendations, soil analysis methods, soil sampling, and soil health
- Survey and data published in Ag Data Commons (Spargo et al., 2022, doi:10.15482/USDA.ADC/1526506)
- SSSAJ article: doi.org/10.1002/saj2.20536


PennState

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1.2. A Survey to Evaluate the Current Status of Land Grant University/State Department of Agriculture Soil Fertility Recommendations and Analytical Methods

The goal of this survey is to gain a better understanding of the current status of soil testing across the U.S. to inform collaborative efforts among states and regions, and to identify where opportunities exist to harmonize nutrient management guidelines. The survey objectives are to collect information regarding state soil test recommendations, fertilization philosophy, analytical methods, and the provenance of the correlation/calibration data used to support recommendations. The last known, published survey of Land Grant University soil-test recommendations was by Voss (1998). The survey results will be summarized for presentation at regional and national professional meetings and published in an appropriate journal.

In some states, multiple faculty may be involved in soil fertility and crop fertilization Research and Extension activities pertaining to statewide nutrient management recommendations. We encourage all involved individuals to take the survey. Only one person per state may have the full knowledge needed to answer some questions pertaining to laboratory- or field-specific issues. Please answer all questions as completely as possible. If you do not know the answer to a specific question, please select the answer 'unknown'.

We estimate 60 to 90 minutes are required to complete the entire survey and it would be helpful to have a copy of your institutions soil test recommendations available while taking the survey. The survey may be paused and resumed at a later time. At the end of the survey, you will be given an opportunity to review and computer rather than a mobile device.

Questions or comments about the survey
Osmond (dosmond@ncsu.edu).

Voss, R. 1998. Fertility recommendations

Soil Science Society of America Journal


ORIGINAL ARTICLE

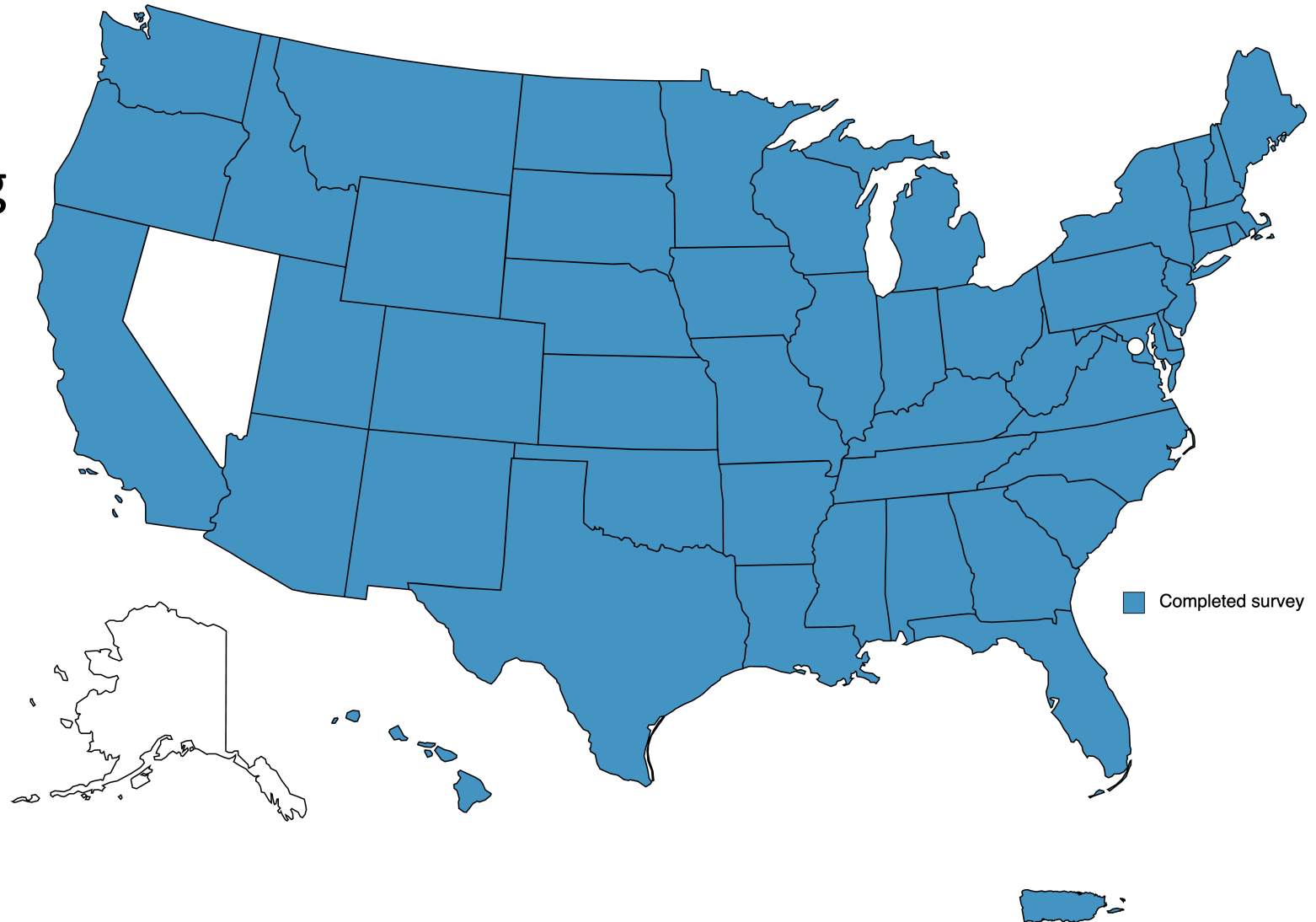
Current status of US soil test phosphorus and potassium recommendations and analytical methods

Sarah E. Lyons, Jason D. Clark, Deanna L. Osmond, Md Rasel Parvej, Austin W. Pearce, Nathan A. Slaton, John T. Spargo 

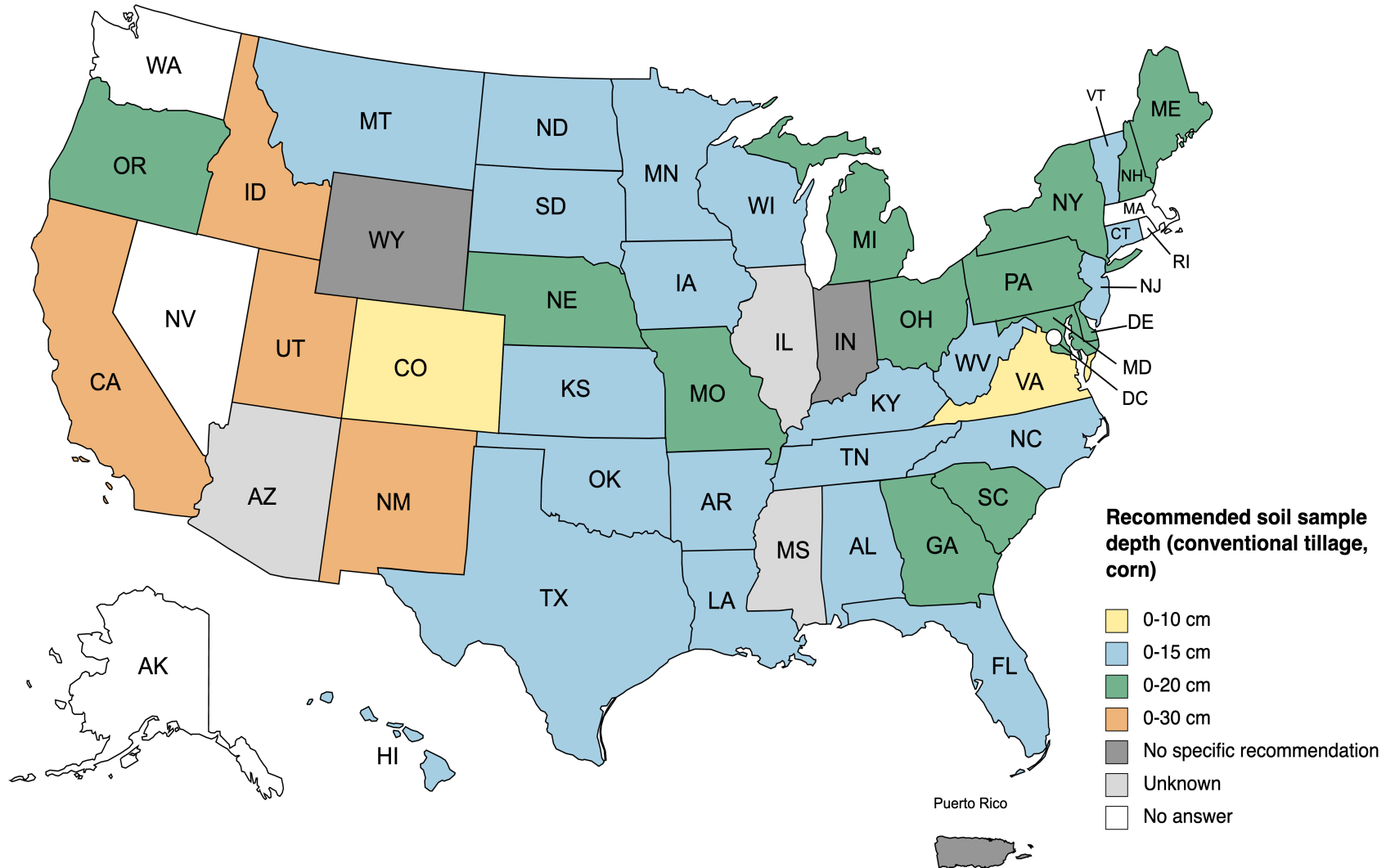
First published: 27 February 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/saj2.20536>

National Soil Fertility Survey: Participation

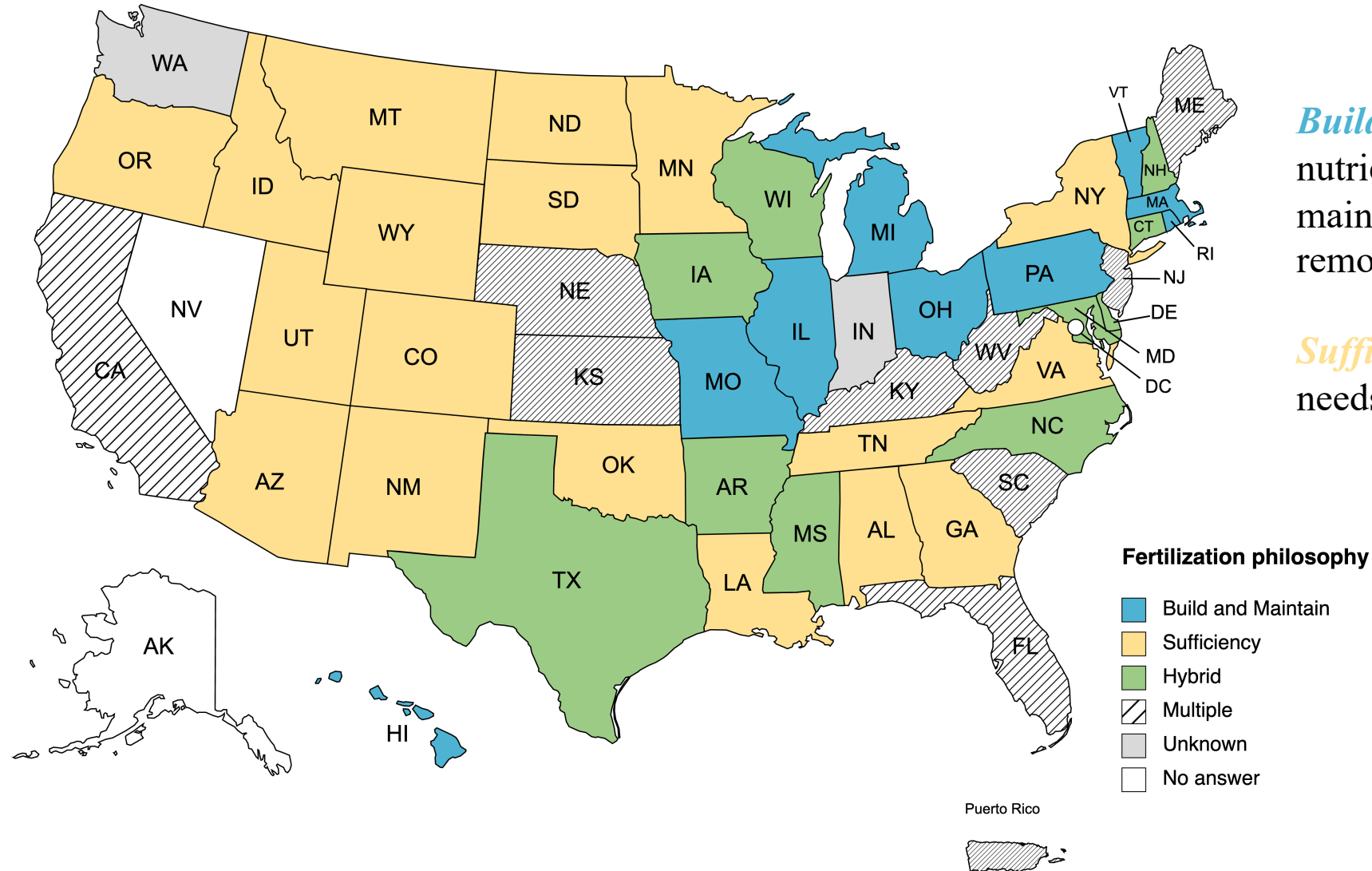
- By June 2nd, 2020, 60 responses representing 48 states and Puerto Rico were received.



National Soil Fertility Survey: Results



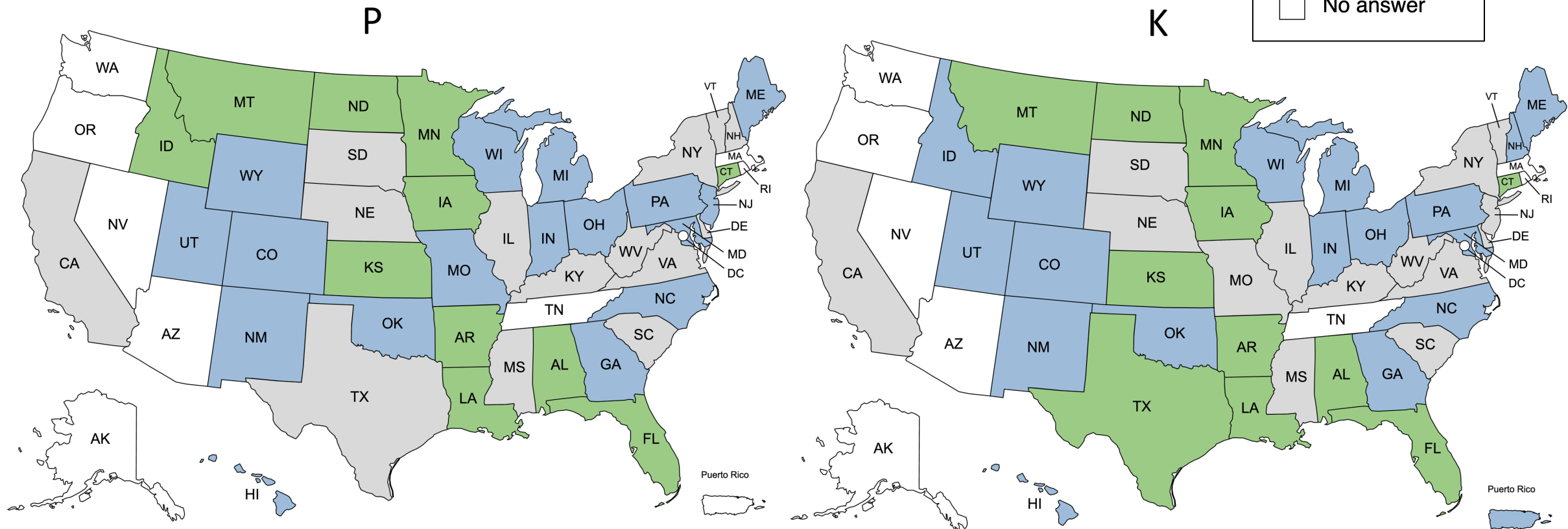
National Soil Fertility Survey: Results



Build and Maintain: Build soil nutrients to optimum range, then maintain by applying at crop removal

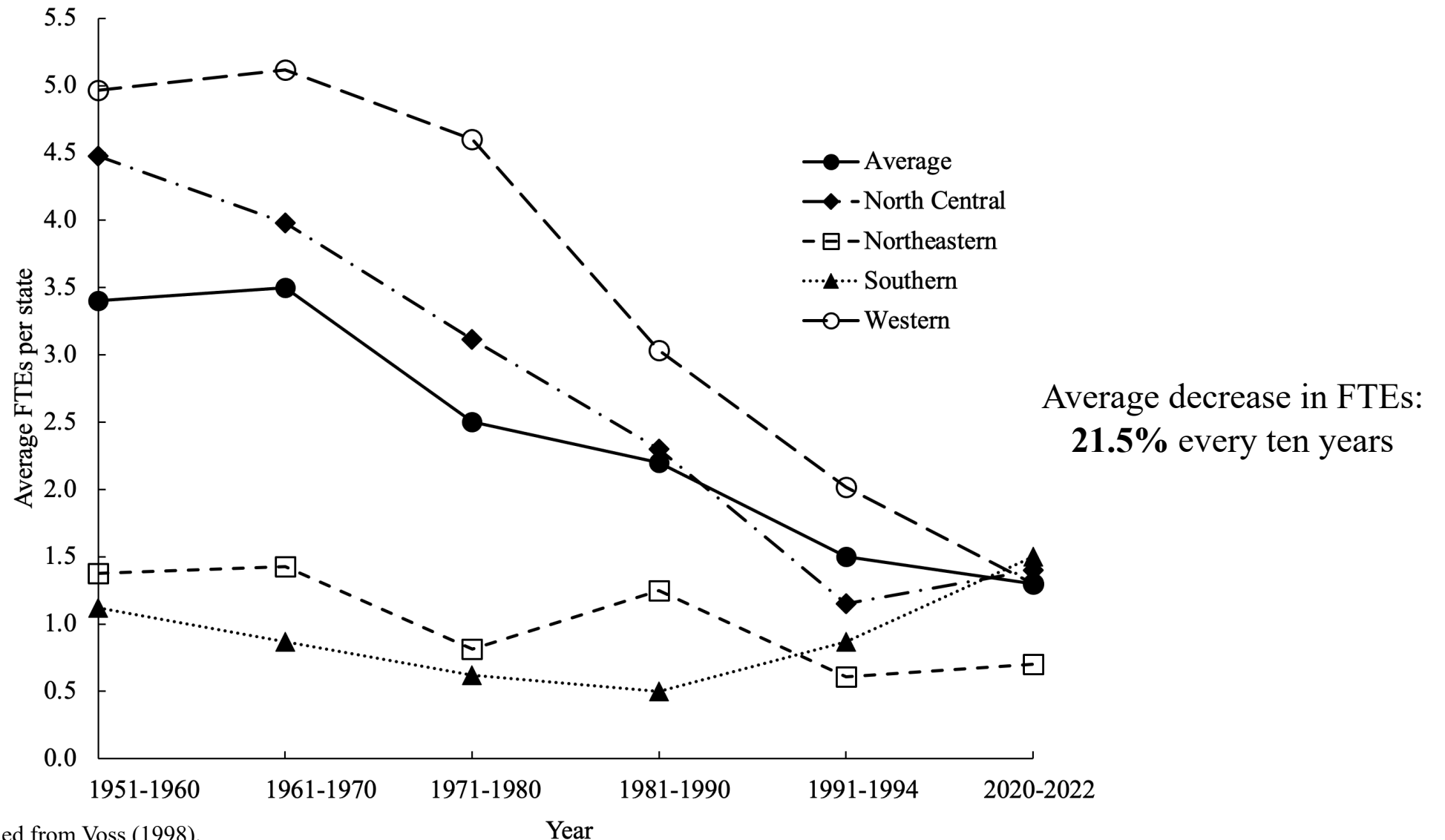
Sufficiency: Apply to meet crop needs, not build soil fertility

National Soil Fertility Survey: Results



Year current soil test field correlation was last established or validated for corn

National Soil Fertility Survey: Results



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Development of a Minimum Dataset Protocol for Soil Test Correlation and Calibration Trials

- Standardize information/data that should be collected to guide soil-test correlation and calibration research
 - Consensus among scientists
 - Guide research protocols and publication of research results
 - Qualify data for inclusion in meta-analyses
 - Promote good science but not be overly restrictive
 - Required vs recommended data
- Facilitate data sharing



Minimum Dataset Organization

- Data origin and ownership
- Soil sample collection and processing details
- Soil analysis and properties
- Metadata
 - Trial & treatment description
 - Cropping system metadata
 - Field management
 - Location & weather
 - Harvest details
 - Experiment design, structure and analysis
- Data
 - Means vs plot-level data

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Soil Science Society of America Journal

REVIEW & ANALYSIS

Minimum dataset and metadata guidelines for soil-test correlation and calibration research

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Sylvie M. Brouder³ | Steve W. Culman⁴ | Gerson Drescher¹ |
Luciano C. Gatiboni² | John Hoben⁵ | Peter J. A. Kleinman⁶ |
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Assigned to Associate Editor: David Hardy

Funding information

Agricultural Research Service, Grant/Award Number: 58-8070-8-016; Natural Resources Conservation Service, Grant/Award Number: 69-3A75-17-45, NR203A7500010C00C

Abstract

Soil-test correlation and calibration data are essential to modern agriculture, and their continued relevance is underscored by the expansion of precision farming and the persistence of sustainable soil management priorities. In support of transparent, science-based fertilizer recommendations, we seek to establish a core set of required and recommended information for soil-test P and K correlation and calibration studies, a minimum dataset, building on previous research. The Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool (FRST) project team and collaborators are developing a national database that will support a soil-test-based nutrient management decision aid tool. The FRST team includes over 80 scientists from 37 land-grant universities, two state universities, one private university, three federal agencies, two private not-for-profit organizations, and one state department of agriculture. The minimum dataset committee developed and vetted a robust set of factors for minimum dataset consideration that includes information on soil sample collection and processing, soil chemical and physical properties, experimental design and statistical analyses, and metadata

Abbreviations: 4RNS, 4R Nutrient Stewardship; BFDC, Better Fertilizer Decisions for Cropping Systems; FRST, Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool.

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Soil Sci. Soc. America J. (2022) 86:19-33
DOI: 10.1002/saj2.20338

Minimum Dataset for Correlation and Calibration Trials

Category	Required data	Recommended data
Soil sample collection and processing metadata	9	5
Soil chemical and physical properties	6	19
Crop, soil, and nutrient management metadata	26	17
Experimental design and statistical analysis	8	9

Soil Sci. Soc. America J. (2022) 86:19-33
DOI: 10.1002/saj2.20338

Soil-test property or information ^a	Minimum dataset category ^b	Level of measurement ^c		Data ^d
		SYT	MYT	
pH	Required	Block	Treatment	n, \bar{x} , variance
SOM	Required	Block	Treatment	n, \bar{x} , variance
P	Required	Block	Treatment	n, \bar{x} , variance
K	Required	Block	Treatment	n, \bar{x} , variance
Ca	Required	Block	Treatment	n, \bar{x} , variance
Mg	Required	Block	Treatment	n, \bar{x} , variance
Na	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
PSD	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
Ex. acidity	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
Buffer pH	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
CEC	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
Total P	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
Al	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
S	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
Fe	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
Mn	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
Zn	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
Cu	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
B	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
EC	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}
CaCO ₃ content	Recommended	Site	Site	\bar{x}

Template for Data Submission

- www.soiltestfrst.org/resources

Not secure | soiltestfrst.org/resources/

FRST
FERTILIZER RECOMMENDATION SUPPORT TOOL

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FUNDING PROJECT TEAM AND COLLABORATORS PRESENTATIONS RESOURCES

FRST Resources

FRST Fact Sheet

An overview of what the FRST project is, its various phases, and who is involved.

FRST Legacy Data Collection Guide

This guide provides collaborators with instructions for submitting quality data from past research on crop response to fertilizers.

Submitting Data to FRST

This template was developed for submitting data to the FRST National Soil Test Correlation and Calibration Database to facilitate adherence to the published minimum dataset and metadata guidelines. We encourage anyone collecting soil test correlation and calibration data to use this template.

Submitting Data to Ag Data Commons

USDA Ag Data Commons Website
Ag Data Commons Data Submission – Information needed for data submission to the National Agricultural Library.

AutoSave Off 6.6.22-FRST-Data-Submission-Template - Saved Search (Alt+Q)

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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
	Trial ID	Nutrient of Interest	Country	State	Nearest City	County	Latitude (decimal degrees)	Longitude (decimal degrees)	Nearest NOAA Weather Station ID	Weather Station Latitude (decimal degrees)	Weather Station Longitude (decimal degrees)
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User & Publication Information Trial Information Soil Methods Soil Data Crop Information Yield Data Plant Tissue Data Weather Data

FRST Project: Step-wise activities

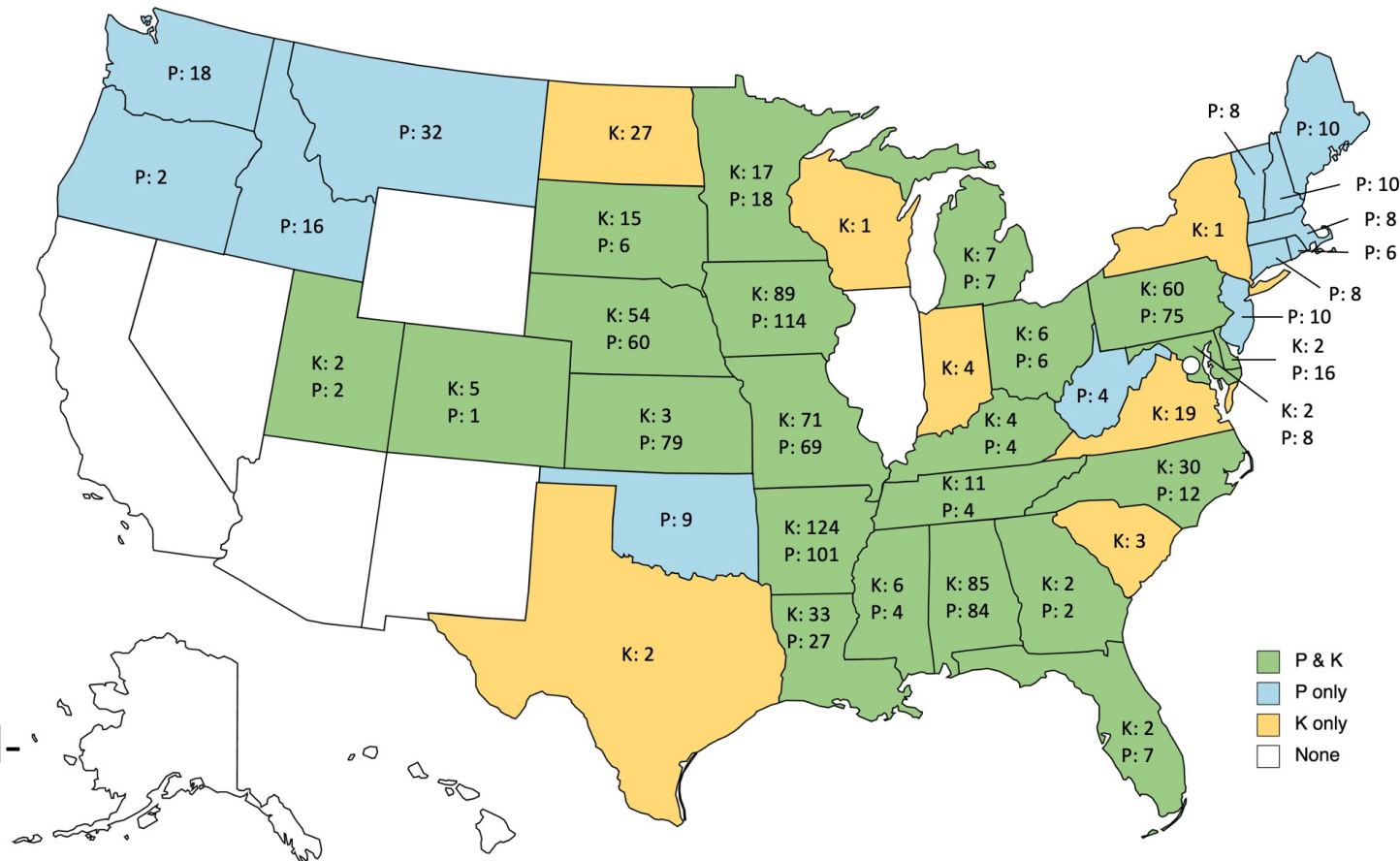


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FRST Legacy Database

- Database accessed by the Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool (FRST)
- Contains USA soil-test P and K correlation and calibration trial data
- Data collected from many sources
 - Journal articles, extension and research bulletins, conference proceedings, dissertations and theses, spreadsheets, and word-processing documents
 - Raw and summarized

P and K Trials in the FRST Database



Data is continuously collected, curated, and entered into the database as it is found or becomes available.

P: 1

Collecting Legacy Data

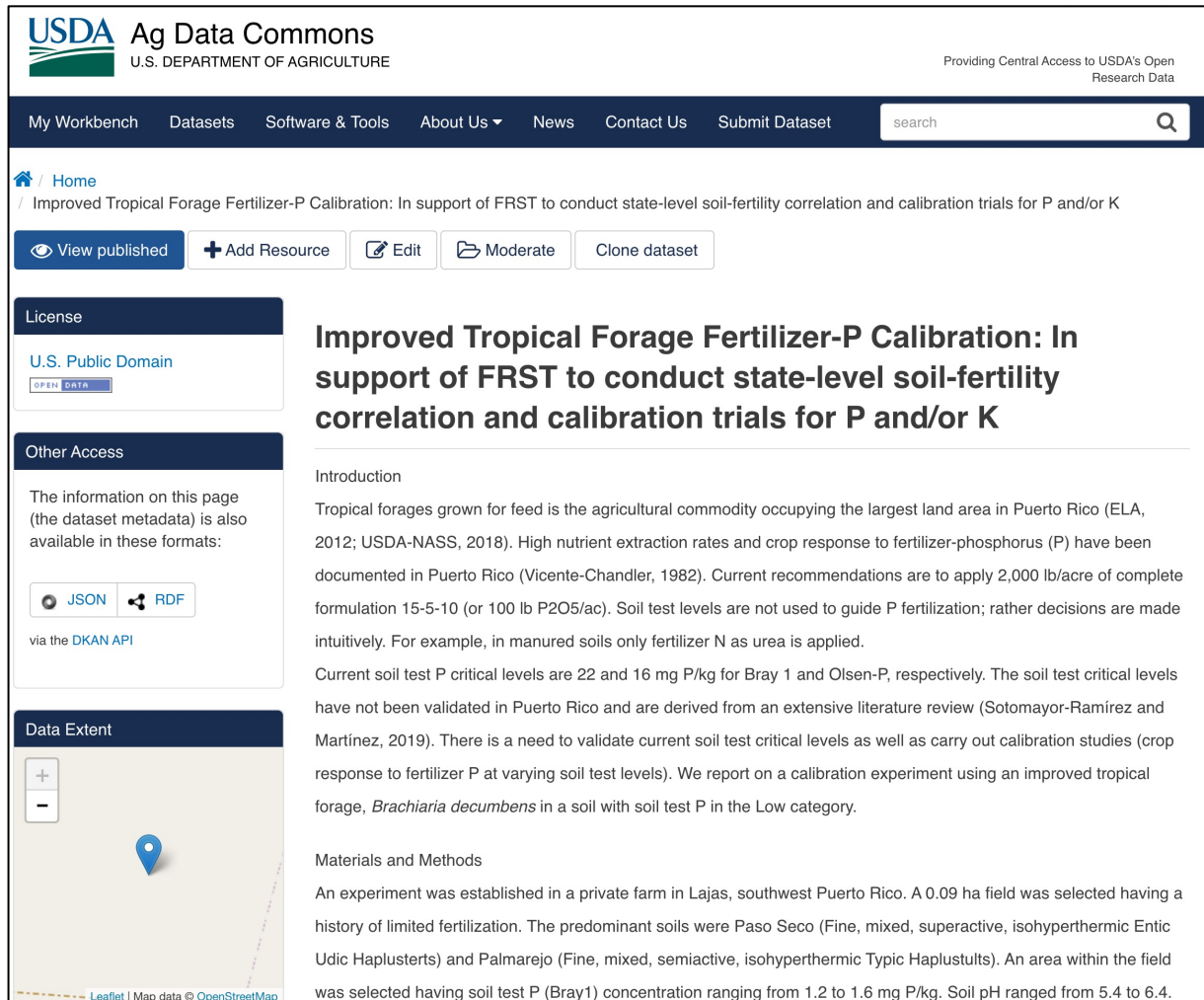


FRST Legacy Database Summary

Trials	1,566	Years	1949 - 2022
Crops	Alfalfa, bahiagrass, barley, bermudagrass, brachiariagrass, camelina, corn (grain and silage), chickpea, clover/grass mix, cotton, flax, lentil, oat, pea, peanut, potato, rice, sorghum, sorghum x sudangrass, soybean, sugarcane, sweet potato, wheat	P methods	Mehlich-1 & -3, Bray-1 & -2, Olsen, Morgan, Modified Morgan, MS Soil Test (Lancaster), acetic acid, resin, Pi, water, double acid, total P, Oxalate, ammonium acetate, Haney, Truog, sodium acetate, oxalate, AB-DTPA
States	AL, AR, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV	K methods	Mehlich-1 & -3, ammonium acetate, nitric acid, saturation, rate of release, MS Soil Test (Lancaster), Olsen, Morgan, Modified Morgan, resin, tetraphenylboron, calcium chloride

Data is continuously collected, curated, and entered into the database as it is found or becomes available.

FRST Legacy Database: Data Publications



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Improved Tropical Forage Fertilizer-P Calibration: In support of FRST to conduct state-level soil-fertility correlation and calibration trials for P and/or K

Introduction

Tropical forages grown for feed is the agricultural commodity occupying the largest land area in Puerto Rico (ELA, 2012; USDA-NASS, 2018). High nutrient extraction rates and crop response to fertilizer-phosphorus (P) have been documented in Puerto Rico (Vicente-Chandler, 1982). Current recommendations are to apply 2,000 lb/acre of complete formulation 15-5-10 (or 100 lb P₂O₅/ac). Soil test levels are not used to guide P fertilization; rather decisions are made intuitively. For example, in manured soils only fertilizer N as urea is applied.

Current soil test P critical levels are 22 and 16 mg P/kg for Bray 1 and Olsen-P, respectively. The soil test critical levels have not been validated in Puerto Rico and are derived from an extensive literature review (Sotomayor-Ramírez and Martínez, 2019). There is a need to validate current soil test critical levels as well as carry out calibration studies (crop response to fertilizer P at varying soil test levels). We report on a calibration experiment using an improved tropical forage, *Brachiaria decumbens* in a soil with soil test P in the Low category.

Materials and Methods

An experiment was established in a private farm in Lajas, southwest Puerto Rico. A 0.09 ha field was selected having a history of limited fertilization. The predominant soils were Paso Seco (Fine, mixed, superactive, isohyperthermic Entic Udic Haplusterts) and Palmarejo (Fine, mixed, semiactive, isohyperthermic Typic Haplustults). An area within the field was selected having soil test P (Bray1) concentration ranging from 1.2 to 1.6 mg P/kg. Soil pH ranged from 5.4 to 6.4.

FRST Facilitated Submissions

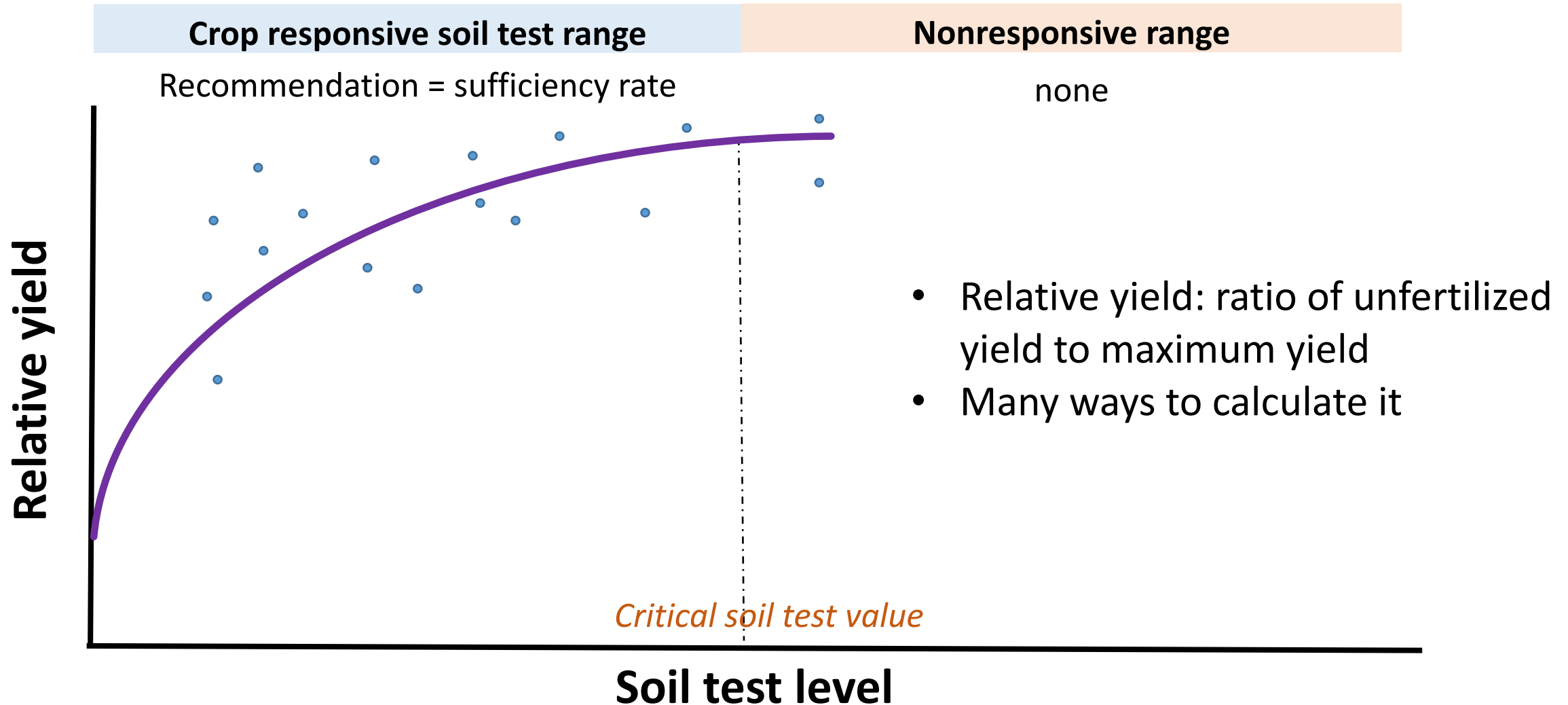
- Fisher, T. R., Lyons, S. E., Roth, J. A., & Fisher, T. E. (2021). Legacy Phosphorus and Potassium Correlation Experiments: Qulin, Missouri. *Ag Data Commons*. <https://doi.org/10.15482/USDA.ADC/1524293>
- Jagadamma, S., & Savoy, H. J. (2020). Comparison of four extractants used in soil phosphorus and potassium testing for two soils in a corn-wheat-soybean rotation in Tennessee receiving various amounts of P and K fertilizer. *Ag Data Commons*. <https://doi.org/10.15482/USDA.ADC/1519155>
- Rogers, C. W., Dari, B., & Liang, X. (2022). Plant, grain, and soil response of irrigated malt barley as affected by cultivar, phosphorus, and sulfur applications on an alkaline soil. *Ag Data Commons*. <https://doi.org/10.15482/USDA.ADC/1526436>
- Savoy, H. J., Leib, B. G., & Grant, T. (2021). Alfalfa response to potassium rate and timing of application. *Ag Data Commons*. <https://doi.org/10.15482/USDA.ADC/1520724>
- Slaton, N. A., Pearce, A. W., Lyons, S. E., Drescher, G. L., & Smartt, A. D. (2022). Soybean Yield Response to Fertilizer-Phosphorus Rate on Soils having different Mehlich-3 Phosphorus Values in Arkansas. *Ag Data Commons*. <https://doi.org/10.15482/USDA.ADC/1524648>
- Sotomayor, D. R., & Araya, K. (2021). Improved Tropical Forage Fertilizer-P Calibration: In support of FRST to conduct state-level soil-fertility correlation and calibration trials for P and/or K. *Ag Data Commons*. <https://doi.org/10.15482/USDA.ADC/1524294>

FRST Project: Step-wise activities



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6. Sampling depth study (Culman and Spargo)
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8. WERA-103 comparison of P and K recommendations (Yost)
9. Develop a user-friendly, searchable interface (decision tool) and internal structure that allows for input, output, and geospatial context (Buol and Osmond)
10. FRST-associated project: lime equations (Miller)

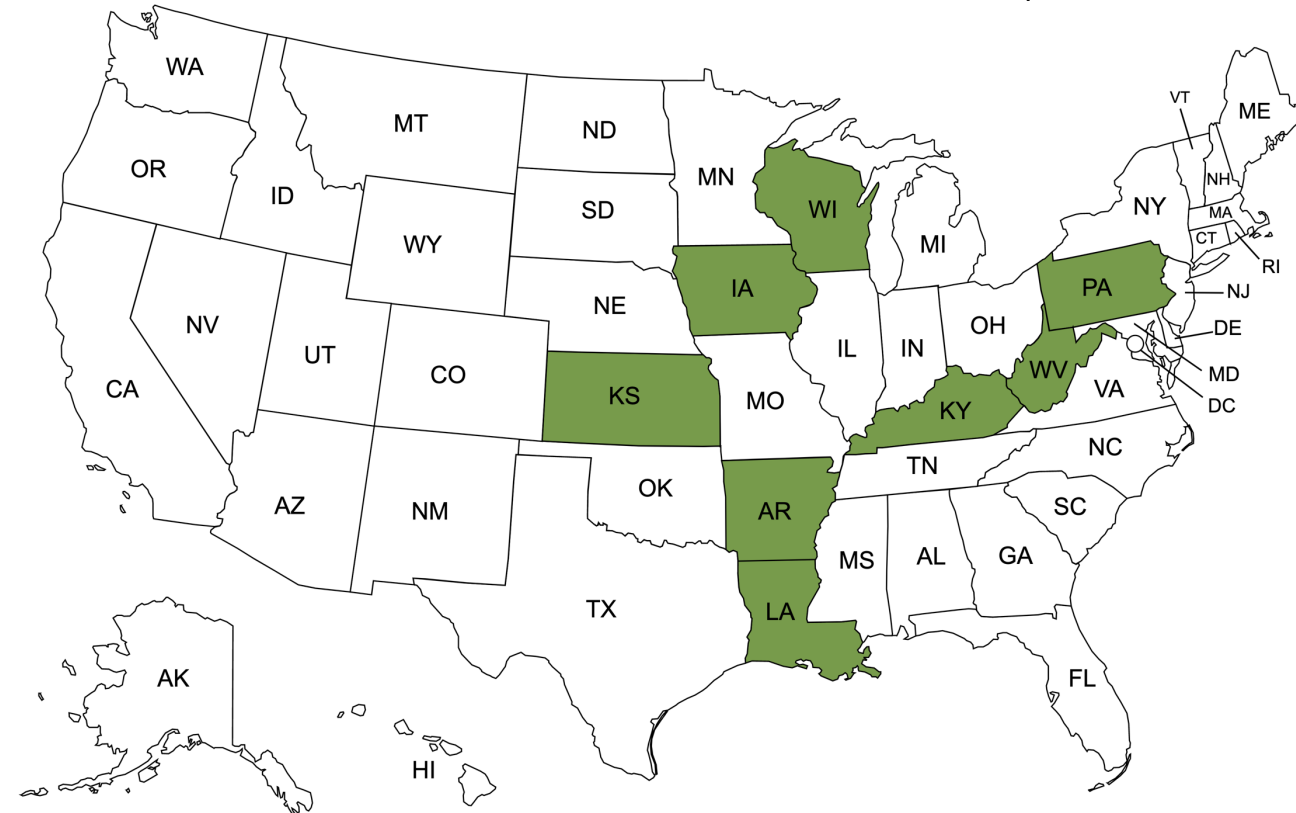
Importance of Relative Yield



Relative Yield Study

- Goal: Determine which definition(s) will be used in the Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool (FRST).
- Consensus: Control yield/ Numerical maximum among all treatments (including control)
- SSSAJ doi:10.1002/saj2.20450

FRST Relative Yield Definition: Participation



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Collaborator (State-level) Soil Test Correlation and Calibration Trials (2021-2023)

Objectives

- Involve more collaborators
- Collect additional data
- Test scripting and upload of minimum dataset from Excel into the relational database
- Determine ease of use of minimum dataset



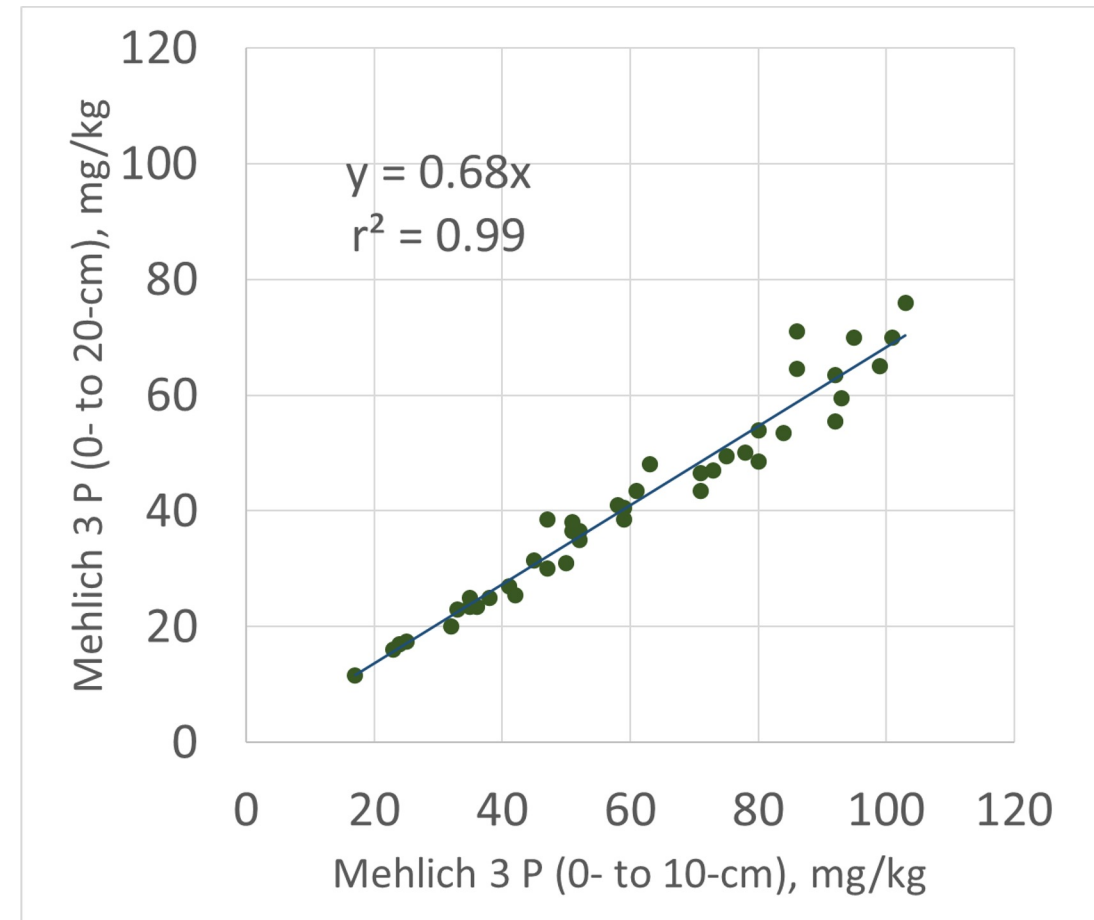
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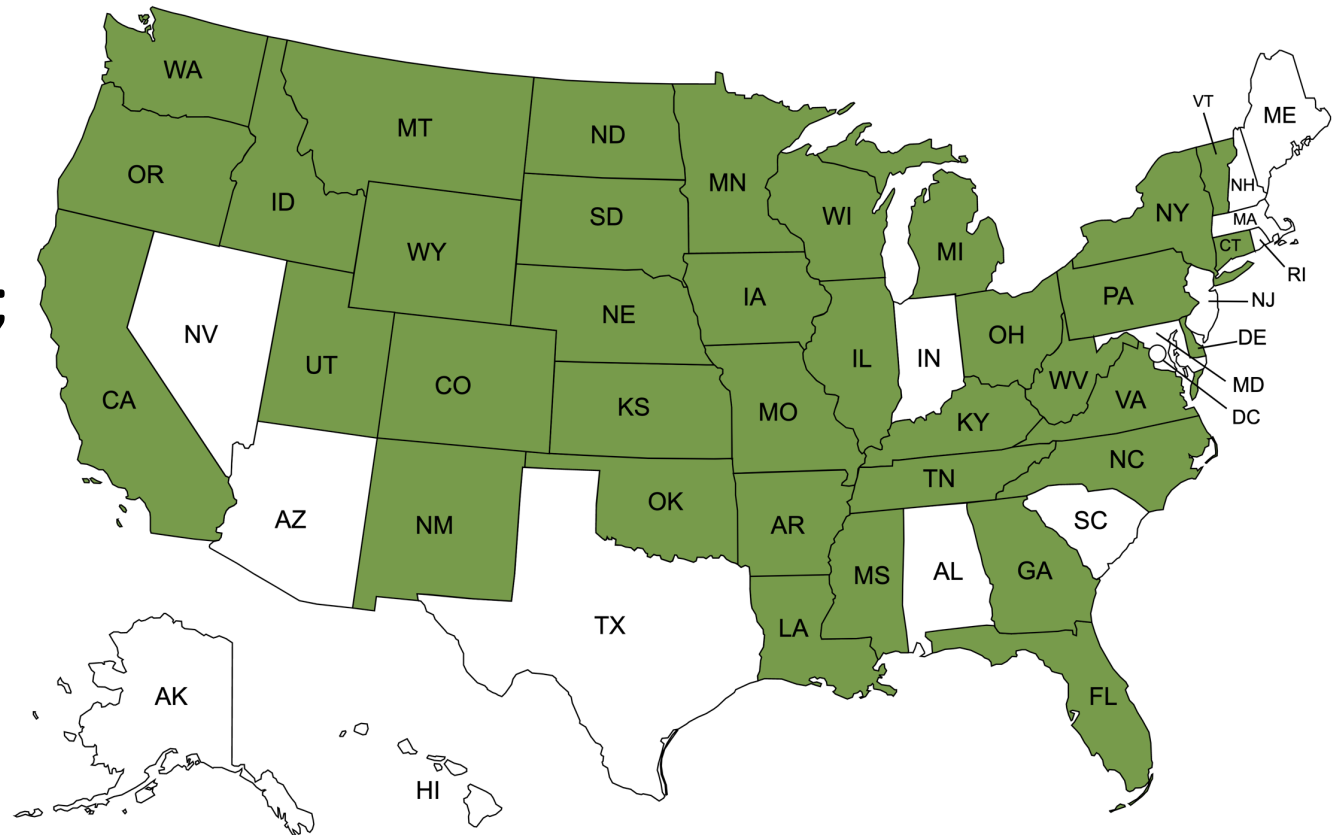
FRST Sampling Depth Study: Goals

- Define a correction factor that can be used to estimate equivalent soil test levels (and critical ranges) for different depths based on different metadata:
 - Cropping system
 - Management
 - Region/soil type



FRST Sampling Depth Study: Participation & Methods

- 5-10 fields per state
- Samples to PSU for Mehlich 3, OM, pH; if northeastern state to Maine for Modified Morgan; if pH > 7.2 to KSU for Olsen
- Western states add a depth, 8-12"
- Metadata collected
- Results coming soon

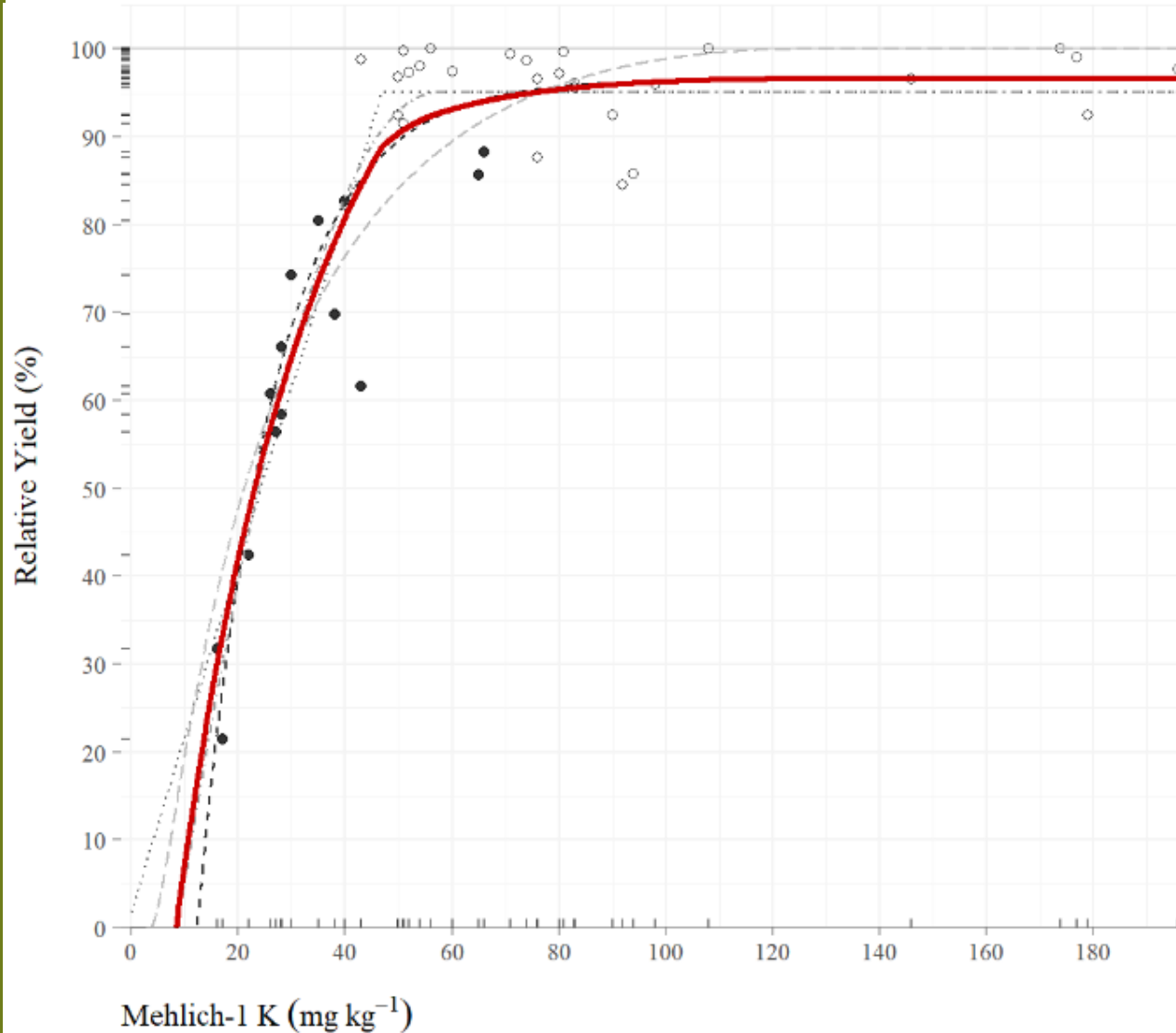


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Model Selection for Critical Soil Test Value



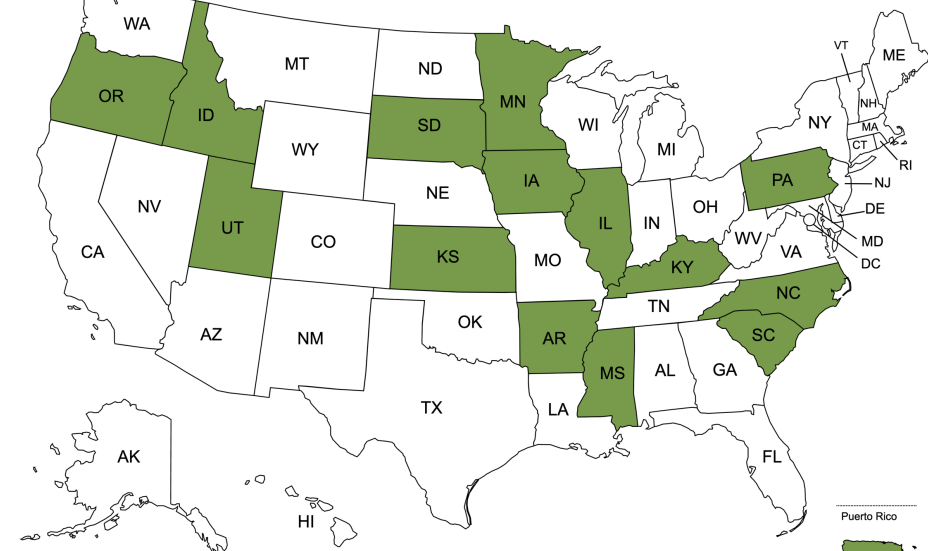
model

- - - Exponential
- Linear plateau
- . - Quadratic plateau
- - - ALCC
- Model average

Response to Fertilization

- Responsive
- ◇ Unresponsive

Participation



FRST Project: Step-wise activities



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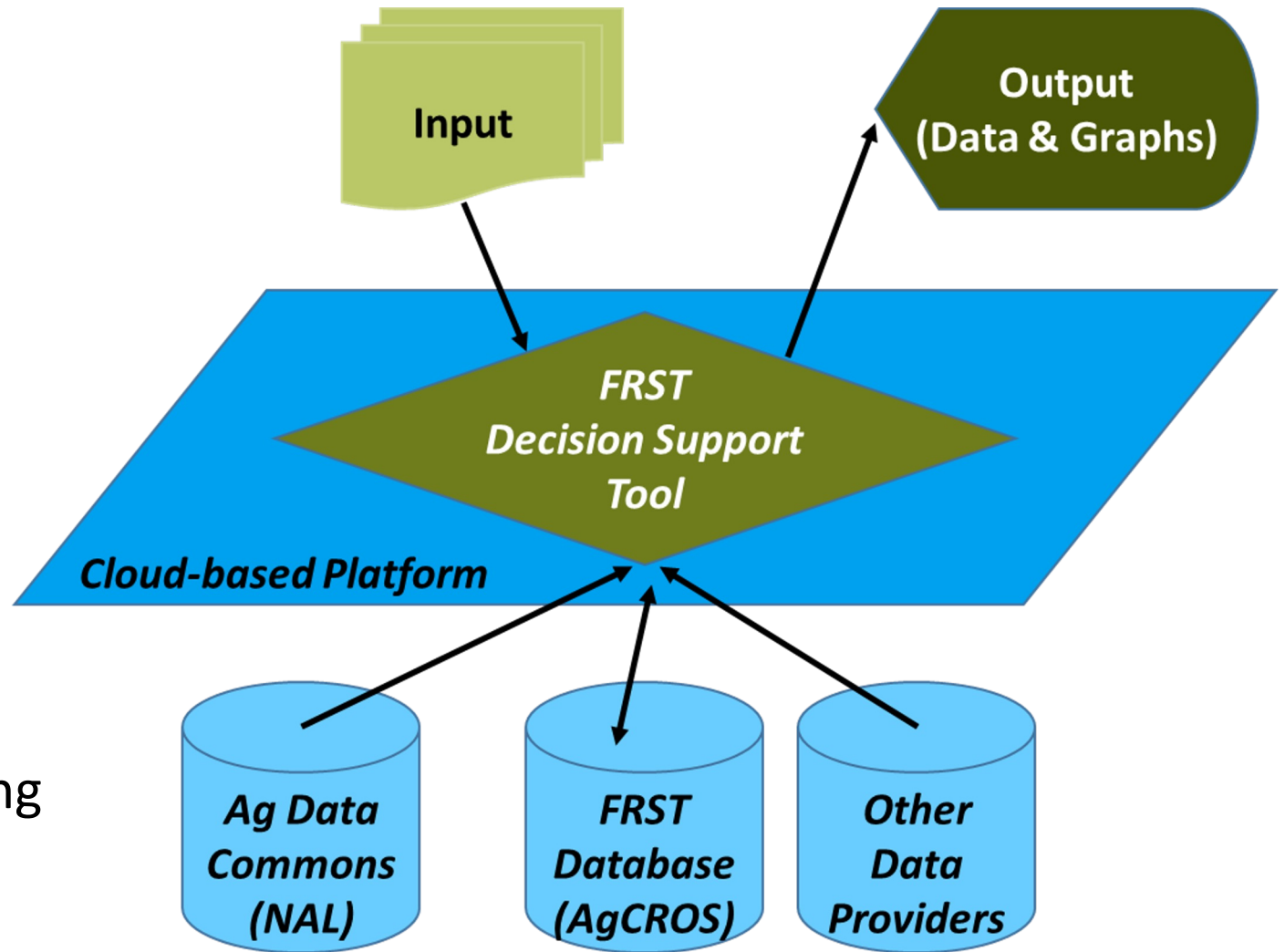
FRST Decision Support Tool

Principles of model development:

- Resides in neutral space
- Software “perpetuity”
- Credit for contribution

Status

- Data is imported
- Tool mechanisms + graphics being programmed
- Interface ready for beta testing this summer




FRST Project: Step-wise activities

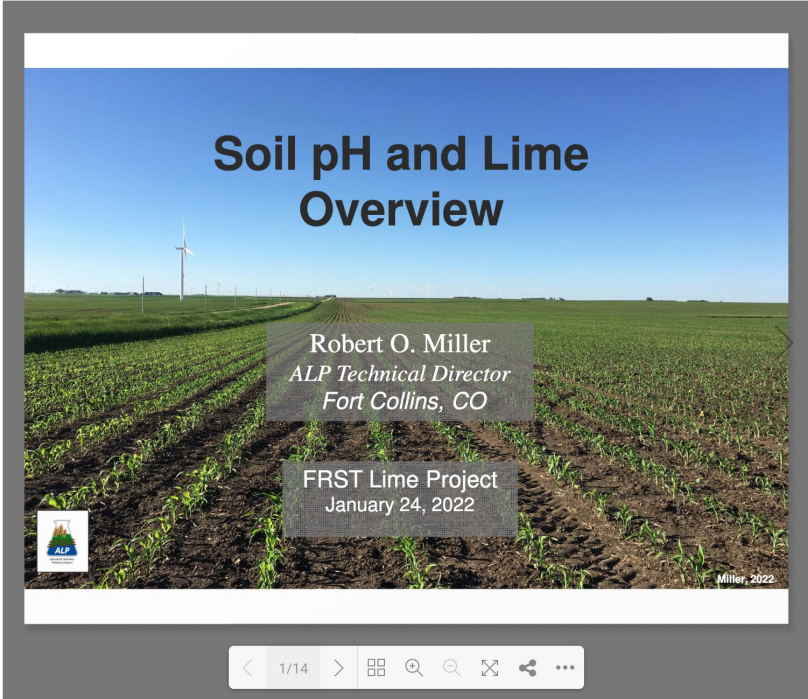


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FRST-Associated Project: Lime



[GOALS AND OBJECTIVES](#)
[FUNDING](#)
[PROJECT TEAM AND COLLABORATORS](#)
[PRESENTATIONS](#)
[RESOURCES ▾](#)
[CONTACT](#)



Soil pH and Lime Overview

Robert O. Miller
ALP Technical Director
Fort Collins, CO

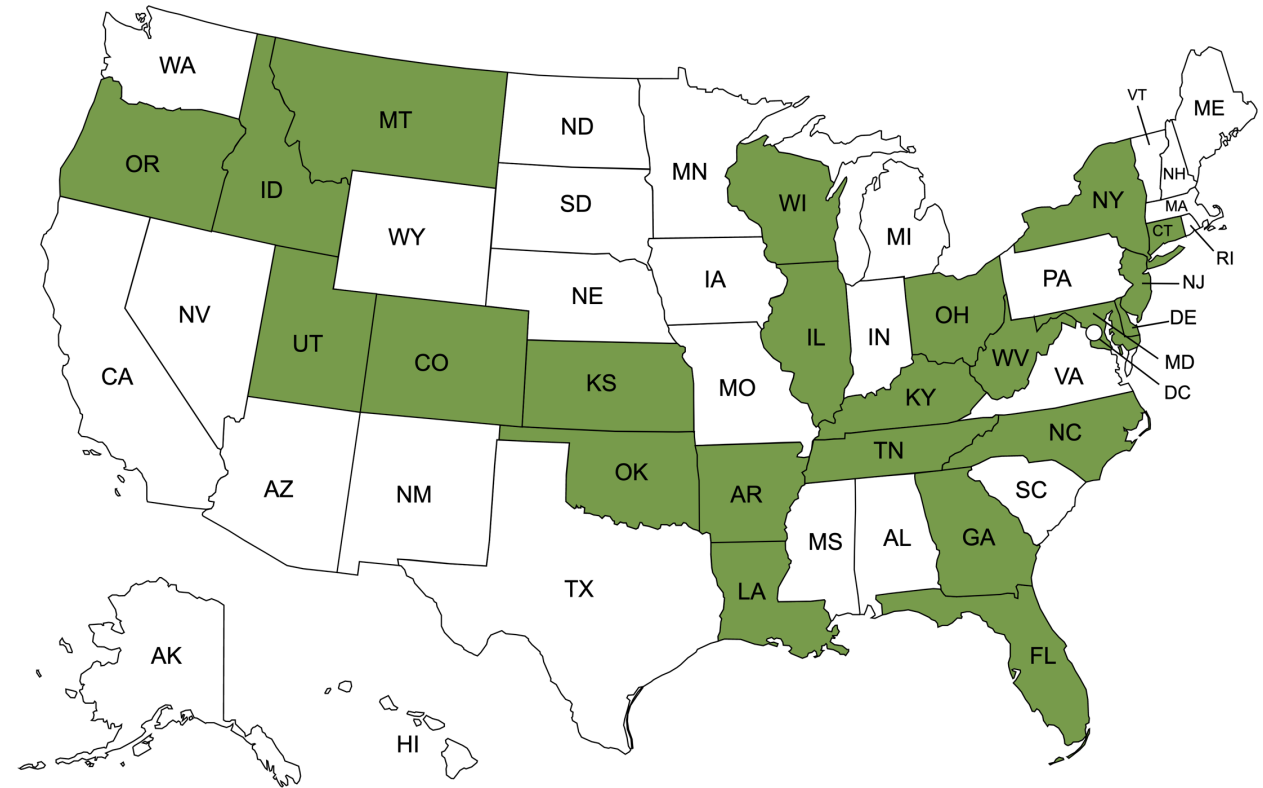
FRST Lime Project
January 24, 2022

1/14

[Soil Collection Template & Protocol \(download here\)](#)

[Meeting Notes \(link\)](#)

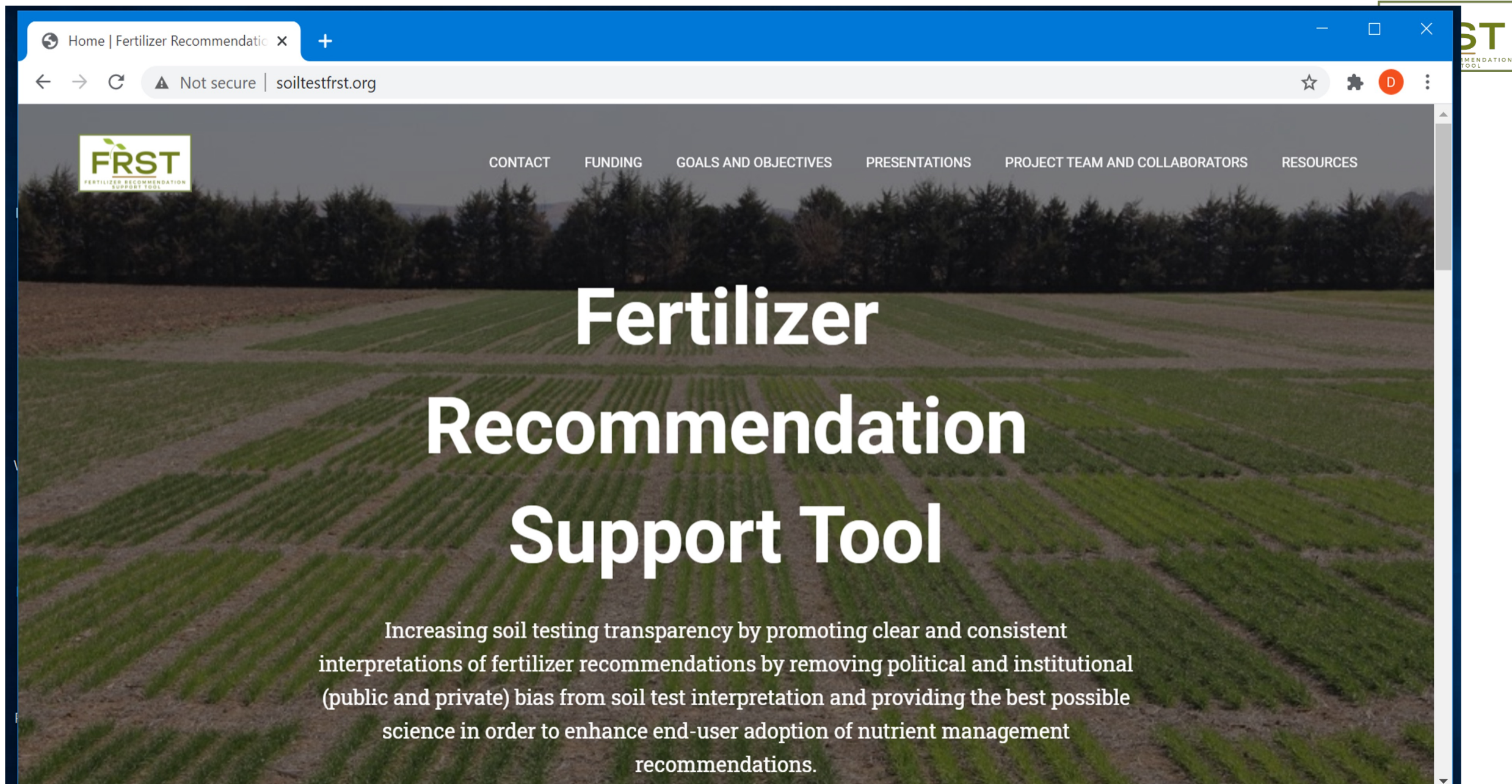
[Presentations \(playlist\)](#)



www.soiltestfrst.org/lime

How ALTA Can Help FRST and Vice-versa

- FRST & ALTA have begun discussions for working together
 - ALTA team consists of some of the ALTA leadership (Corey Lacey, Tim Smith, Dustin Sawyer, and Bob Miller)
 - FRST team consists of some executive members (Deanna Osmond, Nathan Slaton, John Spargo, Matthew Yost, Daniel Kaiser, and Sarah Lyons)
- Regular meetings to discuss the state of soil testing and the FRST project
 - ALTA interested in having FRST provide short presentations on their work to their membership
 - ALTA-FRST group is developing a survey on how fertilizer recommendations are developed. ALTA will lead the effort to interview about 10 individuals
- ALTA will help beta test the FRST decision tool
 - We are looking for similar input/cooperation from across the USA to ensure a range of differences in geography and soil testing are represented in the FRST decision tool



www.soiltestfrst.org

Questions?

- Deanna Osmond,
dosmond@ncsu.edu
- Sarah Lyons,
selyons@ncsu.edu
- www.soiltestfrst.org
- Thank you to our sponsors,
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